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Please circulate among dispensing staff.

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Coverage of Thiazolidinediones (TZDs) for Patients with Type II Diabetes

Effective **November 7, 2005**, the TZD medications pioglitazone (Actos®) and rosiglitazone (Avandia®) are available for PharmaCare coverage for patients with Type II diabetes. Coverage is under the PharmaCare Limited Coverage Program, through the Special Authority (SA) process.

SA criteria and request forms are available on the Limited Coverage Drug Program pages of the PharmaCare Web site. If only the forms are required, quick access is available from PharmaCare's home page at http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme by selecting Forms from the **Contents** menu.

PharmaCare Newsletter/PharmaNet Bulletin Subscription Service

Would you like to be notified by e-mail when a newsletter or bulletin is posted on the PharmaCare Web site? We encourage Internet-connected pharmacies to sign up for our e-mail notification service and read newsletters and bulletins on-line.

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If you are receiving mailed copies of the newsletter that you no longer need, please call the PharmaNet HelpDesk and ask to be removed from the 'hard copy' mailing list.

Palliative Care Medications for Plan B Patients

Residents of long-term care facilities for which a pharmacy is claiming Plan B capitation payments are not eligible for Palliative Care Drug Program (Plan P) coverage.

If an audit reveals that a pharmacy has submitted a claim under Plan P for a resident in a Plan B facility, any payment by PharmaCare is subject to recovery.

Product Identification Numbers (PINs) for Methadone - Reminder

PINs for methadone prescribed for maintenance:

Methadone 1 mg/ml involving direct patient interaction	66999990
Methadone 1 mg/ml **NOT** involving direct patient interaction	66999991
Methadone 2 mg/ml **NOT** involving direct patient interaction	66999992
Methadone 2 mg/ml involving direct patient interaction	66999993

Please note:

- There is deemed to be no direct patient interaction when methadone is provided to incarcerated patients, patients in pre-trial facilities, Plan B patients or to physicians for administration to patients.
- Prescriptions under the Methadone Maintenance Program must be for the 1 mg per ml strength, as per federal guidelines. Physicians require prior approval from the College of Physicians and Surgeons to prescribe methadone. If the College also provides the physician with approval to prescribe in a concentration greater than 1 mg per ml, the physician can request Special Authority coverage from PharmaCare for the patient.

PINs for methadone prescribed for the treatment of pain:

Methadone Pain Suppositories	66124065
Methadone Pain 1 mg/ml	66124066
Methadone Pain 2 mg/ml	66124067
Methadone Pain 5 mg/ml	66124068
Methadone Pain 10 mg/ml	66124069
Methadone Pain 20 mg/ml	66124070
Methadone Pain 25 mg/ml	66124071